


Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application 

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A cart suitable for carrying and operating a motorized lawn trimmer, said trimmer having a motor/fuel tank assembly, an elongated shaft, and a cutting assembly, said cart comprising:

- a. an elongated frame comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end configured for handling by an operator of said cart, said frame further comprising a debris guard secured to said distal end, wherein said frame is configured to carry said trimmer during operation of said trimmer;
- b. a wheel assembly secured to said frame between said ~~handle~~ proximal end and said debris guard; and
- c. said debris guard comprising an upper shield portion and a lower shield portion, wherein said upper shield portion further comprises an opening through which a portion of said trimmer shaft may be housed, such that when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart, said shaft is secured between said upper and lower shields and said cutting assembly of said trimmer is oriented forward of said cart;

whereby when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart and operated therefrom, said guard substantially prevents debris generated by said trimmer from blowing onto an operator of said trimmer.

Claim 2 (original) The cart of claim 1, said cart further comprising a substantially U-shaped mounting device secured to said frame and configured to maintain said motor/fuel tank assembly of the lawn trimmer within said mounting device.

Claim 3 (original) The cart of claim 1, wherein said lower shield portion is secured to said distal end of said frame and said upper shield portion is removably secured to said lower shield portion.

Claim 4 (original) The cart of claim 1, further including an exhaust pipe secured to said cart near said motor/fuel tank assembly, such that upon actuation of said motor/fuel tank assembly, fuel exhaust emanating from said motor/fuel tank assembly is diverted through said pipe.

Claim 5 (original) The cart of claim 4, wherein said pipe is configured to divert said fuel exhaust downward below said cart frame.

Claim 6 (original) The cart of claim 1, wherein said upper shield portion is formed of a substantially transparent material, such that at least a portion of said cutting assembly of said trimmer may be viewed through said upper shield portion by said operator during operation of said trimmer.

Claim 7 (original) The cart of claim 1, said cart further including an elongated support leg secured to said frame between said proximal and distal ends.

Claim 8 (original) The cart of claim 1, wherein said wheel assembly includes (a) a first pair of wheels secured to one another by an axle and a bracket, said bracket further secured to said frame, and (b) a third wheel rotatably secured to said frame between said first pair of wheels and said debris guard.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A cart suitable for carrying and operating a motorized lawn trimmer, said trimmer having a motor/fuel tank assembly, an elongated shaft, and a cutting assembly, said cart comprising:

- a. an elongated frame comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end configured for handling by an operator of said cart, said frame further comprising a debris guard secured to said distal end, wherein said frame is configured to carry said trimmer during operation of said trimmer;
- b. a wheel assembly secured to said frame between said ~~handle~~ proximal end and said debris guard; and
- c. a substantially U-shaped mounting device secured to said frame and configured to maintain a fuel tank of the lawn trimmer within said mounting device.

Claim 10 (original) The cart of claim 9, wherein said debris guard comprises an upper shield portion and a lower shield portion, wherein said upper shield portion further comprises an opening through which a portion of said trimmer shaft may be housed, such that when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart, said shaft is secured between said upper and lower shields and said cutting assembly of said trimmer is oriented forward of said cart; whereby when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart and operated therefrom, said guard substantially prevents debris generated by said trimmer from blowing onto an operator of said trimmer.

Claim 11 (original) The cart of claim 10, wherein said upper shield portion is formed of a substantially transparent material, such that at least a portion of said cutting assembly of said trimmer may be viewed through said upper shield portion by said operator during operation of said trimmer.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A cart suitable for carrying and operating a motorized lawn trimmer, said trimmer having a motor/fuel tank assembly, an elongated shaft, and a cutting assembly, said cart comprising:

- a. an elongated frame comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end configured for handling by an operator of said cart, said frame further comprising a debris guard secured to said distal end, wherein said frame is configured to carry said trimmer during operation of said trimmer;
- b. a wheel assembly secured to said frame between said ~~handle~~ proximal end and said debris guard; and
- c. a throttle control assembly secured to said frame, said throttle assembly comprising ~~a~~ an actuation device, a lever assembly, and a cable having one end secured to said actuation device and an opposite end secured to said lever assembly, said lever assembly oriented on said frame such that when said trimmer is mounted onto said frame, at least a portion of said lever assembly is positioned near a throttle trigger of said trimmer such that upon actuation of said throttle control assembly of said cart, said lever assembly is moved to contact said throttle trigger to activate said trigger, and when said actuation device is released, said lever is moved away from contact with said throttle trigger.

Claim 13 (original) The cart of claim 12, said proximal end comprising a substantially rectangular frame portion, said rectangular frame portion comprising an upper horizontal handle integral with two side bars and a lower bar integral with said side bars; said actuation device comprising a horizontal handle hingably secured to said side bars, and wherein said lever assembly is secured to said frame upon or near said lower bar, said lever assembly having (i) a fixed hinged end secured to said frame and to said cable and (ii) a freely movable end that contacts and moves said throttle trigger when said handle of said actuation device is moved to contact said handle of said frame and releases said trigger when said handle is released.

Claim 14 (original) The cart of claim 12, wherein said debris guard comprises an upper shield portion and a lower shield portion, wherein said upper shield portion further comprises an opening through which a portion of said trimmer shaft may be housed, such that when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart, said shaft is secured between said upper and lower shields and said cutting assembly of said trimmer is oriented forward of said cart; whereby when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart and operated therefrom, said guard substantially prevents debris generated by said trimmer from blowing onto an operator of said trimmer.

Claim 15 (original) The cart of claim 14, wherein said lower shield portion is secured to said distal end of said frame and said upper shield portion is removably secured to said lower shield portion.

Claim 16 (original) The cart of claim 12, further including an exhaust pipe secured to said cart near said motor/fuel tank assembly, such that upon actuation of said motor/fuel tank assembly, fuel exhaust emanating from said motor/fuel tank assembly is diverted through said pipe.

Claim 17 (original) The cart of claim 16, wherein said pipe is configured to divert said fuel exhaust downward below said cart frame.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A cart suitable for carrying and operating a motorized lawn trimmer, said trimmer having a motor/fuel tank assembly, an elongated shaft, and a cutting assembly, said cart comprising:

- a. an elongated frame comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end configured for handling by an operator of said cart, said frame further comprising a debris guard secured to said distal end, wherein said frame is configured to carry said trimmer during operation of said trimmer;
- b. a wheel assembly secured to said frame between said ~~handle~~ proximal end and said debris guard;
- c. a throttle control assembly secured to said frame, said throttle assembly comprising a actuation device, a lever assembly, and a cable having one end secured to said actuation device and an opposite end secured to said lever assembly, said lever assembly oriented on said frame such that when said trimmer is mounted onto said frame, at least a portion of said lever assembly is positioned near a throttle trigger of said trimmer such that upon actuation of said throttle control assembly of said cart, said lever assembly is moved to contact said throttle trigger to activate said trigger, and when said actuation device is released, said lever is moved away from contact with said throttle trigger;
- d. a substantially U-shaped mounting device secured to said frame and configured to maintain said motor/fuel tank assembly of the lawn trimmer within said mounting device; and
- e. said debris guard comprising an upper shield portion and a lower shield portion, wherein said upper shield portion further comprises an opening through which a portion of said trimmer shaft may be housed, such that when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart, said shaft is secured between said upper and lower shields and said cutting assembly of said trimmer is oriented forward of said cart;

whereby when said trimmer is mounted onto said cart and operated therefrom, said guard substantially prevents debris generated by said trimmer from blowing onto an operator of said trimmer.

Claim 19 (original) The cart of claim 18, further including an exhaust pipe secured to said cart near said motor/fuel tank assembly, such that upon actuation of said motor/fuel tank assembly, fuel exhaust emanating from said motor/fuel tank assembly is diverted through said pipe.

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Amendment in reply to Office Action August 24, 2004

Claim 20 (original) The cart of claim 19, wherein said pipe is configured to divert said fuel exhaust downward below said cart frame.